AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A display device that displays an image based on image data supplied from a center device, the display device comprising:

~~receiving means for~~ a receiver receiving data from the center device; and

a visual disturbance hiding ~~means~~ unit that hides disturbance in the image ~~on account of~~ caused by image switching, ~~when~~ in response to the display device ~~obtains~~ receiving, via the ~~receiving means~~ receiver, switching-related data indicating information with regard to the image switching of the image data by the center device, the switching-related data being transmitted in a case where the center device performs the image switching.

2. (Previously Presented) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein, the switching-related data is transmitted when the center device completes the image switching.

3. (Currently Amended) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein[[,]] a period during which the visual disturbance hiding ~~means~~ unit hides the disturbance is set in accordance with a delay time from receipt of the image data to display of the image.

4. (Currently Amended) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein the image data is encoded data, the display device further comprising:

a decoder ~~decoding means~~ that decodes the image data having been encoded,

a period during which the visual disturbance hiding ~~means~~ unit hides the disturbance being set in accordance with a period required for decoding the image data by the decoder ~~decoding means~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein[[,]] the visual disturbance hiding ~~means~~ unit starts to hide the disturbance when a delay time from receipt of the image data to display of the image elapses from a time point of acquiring the switching-related data.

6. (Currently Amended) The display device as defined in claim 5, wherein[[,]] the image data is encoded data, and the display device further ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a decoder that decodes ~~decoding means for decoding~~ the image data having been encoded,

the visual disturbance hiding ~~means~~ unit starting to hide the disturbance when a certain time elapses from a time point of acquiring the switching-related data, the certain time being shorter than the delay time by a time required for decoding the image data by the decoder ~~decoding means~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A display device that displays an image based on image data supplied from a center device, the image data being encoded by the center device, the display device comprising:

a receiver ~~receiving means for~~ receiving data from the center device;

a decoder ~~decoding means for~~ decoding the image data having been encoded; and

a visual disturbance hiding unit ~~means~~ that hides disturbance of the image caused by ~~on account of~~ image switching of the image data by the center device, ~~and~~

the visual disturbance hiding unit ~~means~~ determining when to stop hiding the disturbance, in accordance with a time point at which the display device receives, via the receiver ~~receiving means~~, a first stamp which is generated when the image data switched by the center device is encoded and which indicates time information for synchronizing encoding performed by the center device with decoding performed by the decoder ~~decoding means~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The display device as defined in claim 7, wherein[[,]]

a time when the visual disturbance hiding unit ~~means~~ stops hiding the disturbance is determined in accordance with [[(i)]] a time point of acquiring the first time stamp, and

[[(ii)]] a second time stamp indicating when the decoder ~~decoding means~~ starts to decode the image data.

9. (Currently Amended) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein[[,]] the visual disturbance hiding ~~means~~ unit hides the disturbance of the image by stopping displaying the image.

10. (Currently Amended) The display device as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a transmitter ~~transmission means for~~ transmitting data to the center device; and

a switching command transmission ~~control means for~~ controller controlling and causing the ~~transmission means~~ transmitter to send, to the center device, switching demand data that demands switching of the image data.

11. (Currently Amended) A center device that transmits image data to a display device in order to display an image on the display device, the center device comprising:

~~transmission means for~~ a transmitter transmitting data to the display device;

an image switching ~~means for~~ unit switching the image data to be transmitted; and

a switching-related data transmission ~~control means~~ controller that, when the image switching ~~means~~ unit performs image switching so as to switch the image data, obtains switching-related data indicating information regarding the image switching, and controls and causes the ~~transmission means~~ transmitter to transmit the obtained switching-related data to the display device~~, being~~ independently of the image data.

12. (Currently Amended) The center device as defined in claim 11, wherein[[,]] the switching-related data is transmitted when the image switching ~~means~~ unit completes the image switching.

13. (Currently Amended) The center device as defined in claim 11, further comprising ~~encoding means for encoding~~ an encoder configured to encode the image data,

the ~~transmission means~~ transmitter transmitting, to the display device, the image data encoded by the ~~encoding means~~ encoder.

14. (Currently Amended) A center device that transmits image data to a display device in order to display an image on the display device, the center device comprising:

~~transmission means for~~ a transmitter transmitting data to the display device;

an image switching ~~means for~~ unit switching the image data to be transmitted;

~~encoding means for encoding~~ an encoder configured to encode the image data; and

a time stamp transmission ~~control means~~ controller that controls and causes the ~~transmission means~~ transmitter to [[(i)]] obtain a first time stamp which is generated when the ~~encoding means~~ encoder encodes the image data switched by the image switching ~~means~~ unit and which indicates time information for synchronizing encoding performed by the ~~encoding means~~ encoder with decoding performed by the display device, and [[(ii)]] to transmit the obtained first time stamp to the display device.

15. (Currently Amended) The center device as defined in claim 11, further comprising:

a receiver ~~receiving means for~~ receiving data from the display device;

a switching demand acquiring ~~means for acquiring~~ unit configured to acquire, via the ~~receiving means~~ receiver, switching demand data that demands switching of the image data; and

an image switching ~~control means for~~ controller controlling and causing the image switching ~~means~~ unit to switch the image data in accordance with the switching demand data obtained by the switching demand acquiring ~~means~~ unit.

16. (Currently Amended) The center device as defined in claim 11, wherein[[,]] the image switching ~~means~~ unit is a tuner for selecting image data of being currently broadcast.

17. (Currently Amended) The center device as defined in claim 11, wherein[[,]] the image switching ~~means~~ unit is a selector that selects one of sets of image data supplied from outside.

18. (Previously Presented) An image display system, wherein the center device defined in claim 11 sends the image data to the display device, and the display device displays an image based on the image data.

19. (Currently Amended) The image display system as defined in claim 18, wherein[[,]] the display device is attachable to the center device.

20. (Currently Amended) A display device control method for controlling a display device that displays an image based on image data supplied from a center device~~, the display device including receiving means that receives data from the center device~~, the method comprising ~~the step of~~:

~~when the display device obtains, via the receiving means,~~ receiving from the center device switching-related data indicating information which is transmitted when the center device performs image switching of the image data[[,]]; and

hiding, upon reception of the switching-related data, visual disturbance as a result of the image switching~~, the switching-related data being transmitted in a case where the center device performs the image switching~~.

21. (Currently Amended) A display device control method for controlling a display device that displays an image based on image data supplied from a center device, ~~the image data being encoded by the center device, the display device including: receiving means for receiving data from the center device; and decoding means for decoding the image data having been encoded,~~ the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

hiding disturbance of the image~~, which is~~ caused by image switching of the image data by the center device; ~~and~~

~~determining a time to stop hiding the disturbance, based on a time when the display device obtains, via the receiving means,~~

receiving a first time stamp ~~which is~~ generated when the image data switched by the ~~image switching means~~ center device is encoded ~~and which indicates~~, the first time stamp indicating time information for synchronizing encoding thus performed by the center device with decoding of image data thus encoded, the decoding performed by the ~~decoding means~~ display device; and

determining a time to stop hiding the disturbance, based on a time when the display device receives the first time stamp.

22. (Currently Amended) A center device control method for controlling a center device that sends image data to a display device in order to display an image on the display device, ~~the center device including: transmission means for transmitting data to the display device; and image switching means for switching the image data to be transmitted,~~ the method comprising ~~the step of~~:

~~when~~ performing image switching of the image data ~~by the image switching means is performed,~~ to be transmitted;

~~controlling and causing the transmission means to obtain~~

obtaining, in a case where the image switching is performed, switching-related data indicating information regarding the image switching; [[,]] and

transmitting ~~to transmit the~~ obtained switching-related data from the center device to the display device~~, being~~ independently of the image data.

23. (Currently Amended) A center device control method for controlling a center device that transmits image data to a display device in order to display an image on the display device, ~~the center device including: transmission means for transmitting data to the display device; image switching means for switching the image data to be transmitted; and encoding means for encoding the image data,~~ the method comprising ~~the step of~~:

~~controlling and causing the transmission means to obtain~~

switching image data to be transmitted;

encoding image data thus switched;

generating a first time stamp ~~which is generated when the encoding means encodes the image data switched by the image switching means and which indicates~~ indicating time information for synchronizing the encoding performed by the center device with decoding of image data thus encoded, the decoding performed by the ~~decoding means~~ display device, when the image data is encoded in the encoding; and

transmitting the first time stamp to the display device.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed by a computer ~~display device control program for operating the display device defined in claim 1, the display device control program causing a~~ cause the computer to ~~function as the receiving means, the visual disturbance hiding means, and the decoding means~~ perform the method recited in claim 20.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed by a computer ~~center device control program for operating the center device defined in claim 11, the center device control program causing a~~ cause the computer to ~~function as the transmission means, the image switching means, the switching related data transmission control means, the encoding means, the time stamp transmission control means, the switching demand acquiring means, and the image switching control means~~ perform the method recited in claim 22.

26. (Canceled).

27. (New) The display device as defined in claim 1, wherein the switching-related data is data transmitted after the center device acknowledges a request for the image switching.